

Occurrence Of Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth In The Amba Reserve Forest Of The Western Ghats , Maharashtra

P. M. Bhoje* and Yuvaraj Patil

*Head, Department of Zoology Y. C. Warana Mahavidyalaya, Warananagar Tal. Panhala Dist Kolhapur
Vivekananda Foundation, (Register NGO) Chavare , Tal: Hatknagale, Dist: Kolhapur
Corresponding Author: P. M. Bhoje

Abstract: Study of bird diversity or occurrence of certain birds in the region would be tools to know about the ecology of that region, Some bird species are endemic to the region; any climatic minor change may affect its population and distribution. Ceylon frog mouth is first reported in the Sri-Lanka ; then it is reported to the Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil-Nadu. It is one of the least known birds species of the ever green forest biotope of the Western Ghats (Sugathans 1978). First time we have reported Ceylon frogmouth in Amaba reserve forest, it is a part of Western Ghats. For exploration of study area we had arranged many visits and in December 2016. We got success to extend distributional rang of Sri Lanka frogmouth up to Amba.

Date of Submission: 12-01-2018

Date of acceptance: 27-01-2018

I. Introduction

The Ceylon frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth (Family : Podargidae) is a nocturnal bird distributed from rainforest of Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and also in Sri Lanka (Sugathan 1981) The bird is about myna size, cryptically coloured with vermiculation of gray and brown streaked with black and white. They mimic by dry bamboo or lichen covered tree trunk. Though the bird is nocturnal, cryptic and found mostly in the rainforests of the Western Ghats(Ali 1969) the attention paid to study of this birds is negligible. (Sugathan 1981, Kumara 2003) Being a timid and nocturnal bird, it is very difficult to study during day time. It is very slow by nature, hence is easily approachable when at rest during day time. Birds were looked like closed eyes; bill toward sky wards; neck pulled downward. When disturb before fly away, they bob the head; ruffle their neck feathers. The species can attract with “call play back” technique (Sahas Barve 2009).

II. Distribution

The Ceylon frogmouth is a nocturnal bird distributed from the rainforest of Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and also in Sri Lanka (Sugathan 1978) The Ceylon frogmouth was reported from Southern Western Ghats (Ali 1935;Vijayan1979;Sugathan 1981;Kannan 1994 and Kumara and Singh 2006) Borges 1986 reported it from north Karnataka and later Giri (2002) extended its Northern rang up to Radhanagari WLS, this rang extended up to Mumbai. Lainer (2004) reported the first observation of the frogmouth in Goa at Bondal Wildlife Sanctuary in 1996.Rasmussen & Anderton 2012 also mentioned that the Sri Lanka Frogmouth occurs in the Western Ghats from south of Goa and Sri Lanka . Giri (2002) recorded the Sri Lanka Frog mouth in Kolhapur of Maharashtra and Kasambe (2012)sighted it in Mumbai , Maharashtra; indicating that the presence their northern most rang has exerted up to Mumbai. As in comparison of diurnal birds of prey, many nocturnal bird species are top predators. Food niche overlaps are likely to occur among nocturnal and diurnal birds, involve that changes in population size and diversity of the former may directly affect those of the latter and vice versa (Bosakowski & Smith 1992, Gliwicz 2008).

We observed pair of Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth in Amaba reserve forest' it is a part of Western Ghats , it lies in the Sahyadri mountain ranges on the Ratnagiri – Kolhapur road (NH204) in Maharashtra at height of 2000ft above sea level.The temperature of region ranges from 20 to 40^oc and humidity ranges 55 to 85% . Out of 563 km² reserve forest 417 km² protected forest. The study area is included in Tope sheet No. 47H/13 on scale 1:50,000 and extended in by latitude 15^o43 to 17^o10 North and longitude 73^o40 to 74^o 42 East.

III. Materials And Methods

We intended to search of Ceylon Frogmouth in study area when we referred the research paper by Anil Mahabal (et al.) In his research paper he has given speculated distributional area of Sri Lanka frogmouth Between Devrukh , Ratnagiri district and Radhanagari Kolhapur District an aerial gap of about 80 km particularly around Sakharpa, Vishalgad, Barki and Gaganbawada. Keeping this in mind we had arranged many exploration visits in this area and in December 2016 we got success to extend distributional rang of Sri Lanka frogmouth up to Amba.(Fig.1) Mahabal, A(2016) (et al.) We took many photographs and its video clip also. It was resting on the branch of tree near about seven feet above the ground. By keen observation we reveled that it was not a single but it was in couple, it was difficult to identify them due to its cryptic coloration. Pair was so confident about its camouflage colouration and its mimic habit; they were look just like a cut dried branch of tree trunk covered by lichen. We took photographs by Canon D600 and on Lenovo mobile also then my friend tried to approach it. He was just about touch to its tail. Then it opened it's wide opening bill and then bobbed it's head then flew away. We have recorded it call on mobile phone.

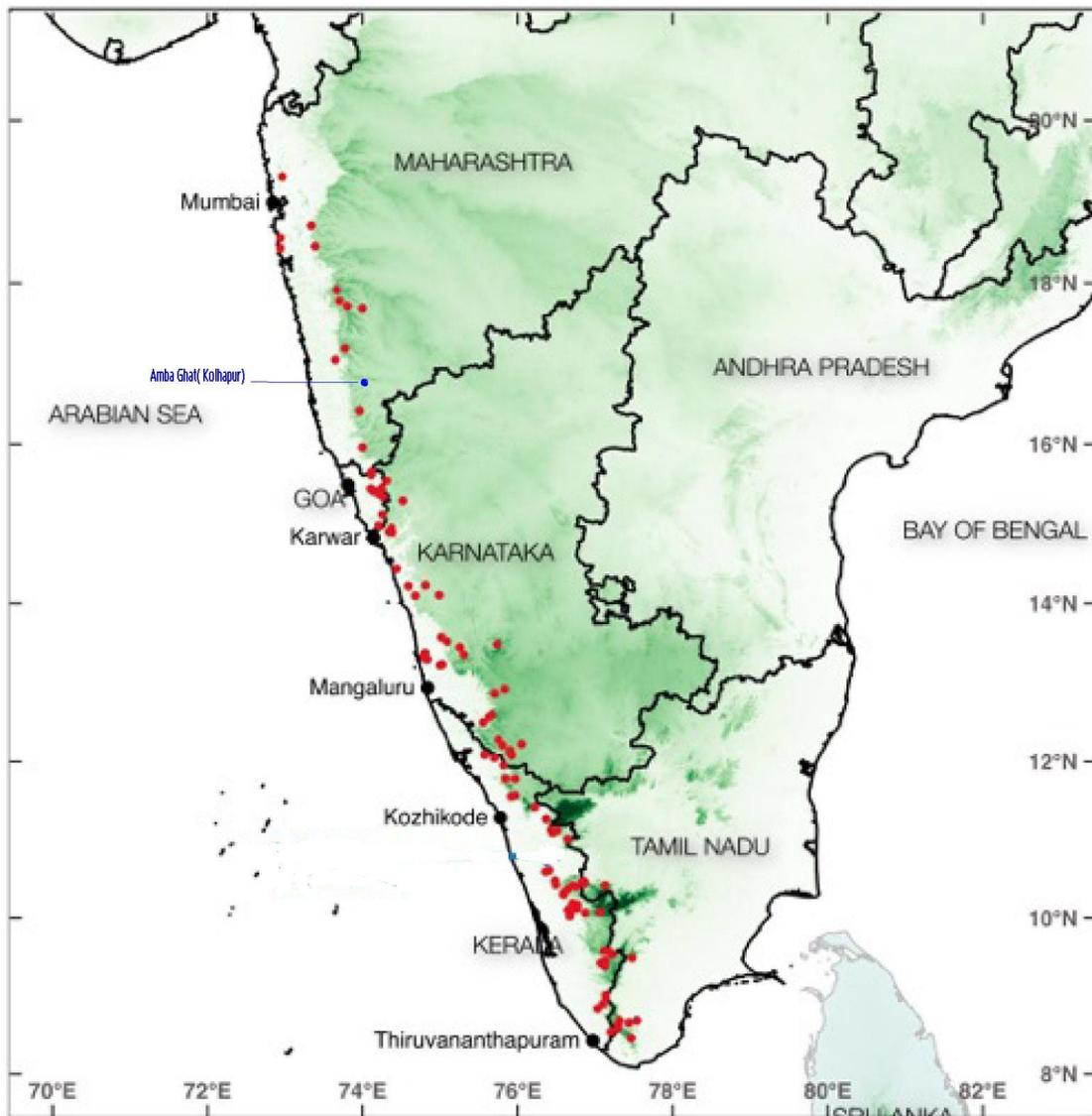


Figure 1 Distribution records of Sri Lanka Frogmouth in Western Ghats, India

IV. Conclusion

According to Davidson report published in 1898, habitat rang of Ceylon frogmouth is extended in between Kerala to Uttar Karnataka. In recently it was observed by Holt in Bondala Wild Life Sanctuary, North Goa (Lainer 2004). Then it was reported in Radahnagari Wild Life Sanctuary , Kolhapur of Maharashtra ((

Giri 2002) and in Phanasad Wild Life Sanctuary , Raigad in 2009 (Prashant 2009; Kosambe 2012). In Sanjay Gandhi National Park, near Mumbai it is reported by Kosambe 2012.

Speculation was given about occurrence of Ceylon frogmouth in the a area between Devrukh , Ratnagiri district and Radhanagari of Kolhapur District an aerial gap of about 80 km particularly around Sakharpa, Vishalgad, Barki and Gaganbawada Mahabal, A(2016) (et al.) . By the discovery of frogmouth in the Amba reserve forest we have filled the gap in above mentioned speculated area.



1 Female frogmouth



2) Male Frog mouth



3) Yuvraj Patil with Ceylon frogmouth

References

- [1]. Ali, S. (1935). The ornithology of Travancore and Cochin (with notes by Hugh Whistler) - part 1. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society* 37(4): 814–843.
- [2]. Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley (1983). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Vol 4, Frogmouths to Pittas (Second Edition)*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 267pp.
- [3]. Barve , S (2010) Indian Birds Vol. 5 No. 6 (Publ. 6th May 2010)
- [4]. BOSAKOWSY4, T., R. SPEISER, AND D.C. SMITH. 1989. Nesting ecology of forest-dwelling Great Horned Owls, *Bubo virginianus*, in the eastern deciduous forest biome. *Can. Field-Nat.* 103:65-69. --AND D.C. SMITH. 1992. Comp
- [5]. Borges, R. (1986). On the occurrence of the Ceylon Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) in North Kanara, Karnataka. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 83(1): 200.
- [6]. Giri, B.V. (2002). Occurrence of the Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* (Family: Podargidae) in Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 99(1): 116–117.
- [7]. Kannan, R. (1994 a). Notes on the status and ecology of the Ceylon Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth) from the Anaimalai Hills of Tamil Nadu. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 91(3): 454–455.
- [8]. Kannan, R. (1994 b). Are frogmouths “living flytraps”?. *Oriental Bird Club Bulletin* 19: 57.
- [9]. Kasambe, R. (2012). Range extension of Sri Lankan Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) upto Mumbai. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 52(3): 37.
- [10]. Kumara, H.N. & M. Singh (2006). Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth in the rainforest of Western Ghats, Karnataka. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 103(1): 100–101.

Occurrence Of Ceylon Frog Mouth *Batrachostomus Moniliger* Blyth In The Amba Reserve Forest ..

- [11]. Mahabal, A., S. Thakur & R. Patil (2016). Distribution records and extended range of the Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* (Aves: Caprimulgiformes: Podargidae) in the Western Ghats, India: a review from 1862 to 2015. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 8(11): 9289–9305; <http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/jott.2775.8.11.9289-9305>
- [12]. Lainer, H. (2004). *Birds of Goa - A Reference Book*. Published by Goa Foundation, Mapusa, Goa, India, 244pp.
- [13]. Sugathan, R. (1981). A survey of the Ceylon Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) habitat in the Western Ghats of India. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 78(2): 309–316.
- [14]. Sugathan, R. & A.P. Varghese (1996). A review of the birds of Thattakad Bird Sanctuary, Kerala. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 93(3): 487–506.
- [15]. Vijayan, V.S. (1979). Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjacent areas. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 75(3): 888–900.

P. M. Bhoje "Occurrence Of Ceylon Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* Blyth In The Amba Reserve Forest Of The Western Ghats , Maharashtra." *IOSR Journal of Environmental Science, Toxicology and Food Technology (IOSR-JESTFT)* 12.1 (2018): 12-15.